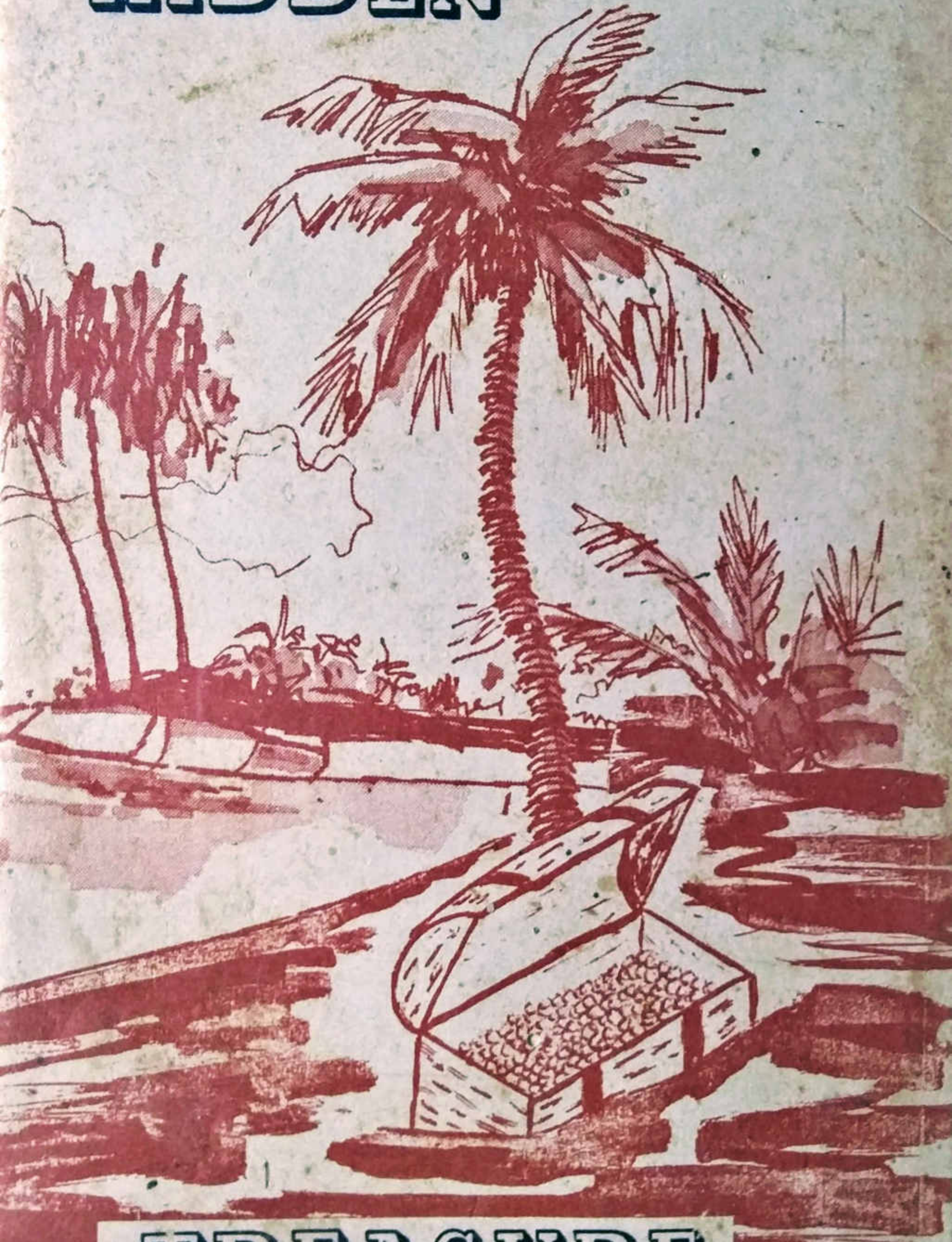
HIDDEN



TREASURE

HIDDEN TREASURE

"My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou shalt incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as for silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God." (Proverbs 2:1-5). The Bible is the only book in the world that gives us the words of the true and living God. In this Book holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The Bible has two distinct divisions. The Old Testament has thirty-nine books and the New Testament has twenty-seven books. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and Psalm 117 is the shortest. Most of the Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language and the New Testament was written in the Greek language. The entire Bible has been translated into 221 languages; at least one of the Testaments has been translated

into 277 languages; and at least one portion of the Bible into 1,165 languages. There are still 2,000 languages into which none of the Bible has been translated. These 2,000 languages represent about five per cent of the world's population.

The sixty-six books of the Bible can be divided into a Pentateuch of Pentateuchs. (This word is from the Greek word "Pente," meaning five, and Teukhos", meaning book.) These divisions are as follows:

I. The Pentateuch
   1. Genesis
   2. Exodus
   3. Leviticus
   4. Numbers
   5. Deuteronomy

II. The historical books
   1. Joshua
   2. Judges and Ruth
   3. The book of Kings (First and Second Samuel and First and Second Kings.)
   4. Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther
   5. First and Second Chronicles

III. Poetical books
   1. Psalms
   2. Job

3. Song of Solomon
4. Ecclesiastes
5. Proverbs

IV. Prophetical books
1. Isaiah
2. Jeremiah, with Lamentations
3. Ezekiel
4. Daniel
5. Minor Prophets

V. New Testament
1. The Gospels
2. Acts of the Apostles
3. Paul's Epistles
4. General Epistles
5. The Revelation

Or, another simple outline gathers around four words: Precept, Practice, Principles, and Prophecy:

OLD TESTAMENT		NEW TESTAMENT
The Pentateuch	Precept	Gospels
Historical Books	Practice	The Acts
Poetical Books	Principles	Epistles
Prophetical Books	Prophecy	Revelation

FIVE BASIC FACTS CONCERNING THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ is the central theme of the Bible.
3. The Holy Spirit is the Interpreter of the Bible.
4. The Bible is the foundation of the Christian faith.
5. Satan, in order to destroy the Christian faith, seeks to undermine its foundation.

THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

How can we know that the Bible is the Word of God? In the first place, the Bible makes this claim for itself. Over twenty-five hundred times in the Book we have such expressions as "Thus saith the Lord," "The Lord spake unto Moses," and "The Word of the Lord came unto me saying." The Bible distinctly claims that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (II Timothy 3:16).

Hundreds of fulfilled prophecies prove that the Bible is the Word of God. In the Old Testament we find dozens of prophecies concerning the coming of Messiah All of these

prophecies were fulfilled with the coming of Jesus. In the same way hundreds of prophecies were made concerning the Nation of Israel in the Old Testament. Since many of these prophecies have already been literally fulfilled, and, since some of them are being fulfilled right before our eyes, it is easy for us to believe that the others shall also be fulfilled in the same remarkable way. The second chapter of Daniel is one of the most remarkable chapters in the entire Bible. It gives us in outline form, the pre-written history of the nations of the world. This can be explained in but one way: God is the Author of this Book.

When we consider that the Bible was written over a period of more than 1500 years, by more than forty different authors from all walks of life, and yet with one continuous, harmonious theme, we are compelled to admit that one Mind must have controlled the thinking of each individual writer. Today it would be impossible to find forty men in any given field of study who would agree perfectly on all they thought or wrote.

All books written by man are soon out of date. Our schools would not think of using the same books they taught from thirty years ago. Man constantly improves on what he has writ-

ten, for he is learning all of the time. History books must be revised as history is made; geography books must be changed as new facts are accumulated; science books must be brought up to date often. This is not true of the Bible because God is Omniscient. He knows all things from the beginning. His knowledge does not improve with the passing years.

We know that the Bible is the Word of God because of its mighty transforming power. Through its message whole tribes of naked, degraded savages have been changed into saints of God. Headhunters have become heart hunters for Jesus. Men that were loathsome cannibals now feed on the Bread of Life. Uncounted drunkards have been made sober by the message of this book. Fallen, degraded women have been made as pure as the new-fallen snow. Thieves have been transformed into honest men. Because the message of the Bible has been heard and believed, countless lives that once were filled with darkness and despair are now filled with hope, peace, and righteousness.

Because of the transforming power of the Bible, John Newton, the vile libertine could write:

"Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see."

Many years ago two English infidels decided to disprove the truth of Christianity. In orded to do this, Lord Lyttelton agreed to write a thesis disproving the resurrection of Christ, and Gilbert West was to write a thesis disproving the conversion of the Apostle Paul. It is a bit amusing that, as they began their work, each admitted to the other that he was rusty on his information needed. When they realized their need for further information, being honest men, they set out to do some honest research. In the course of making these studies both of the men were soundly converted to Christ. West wrote "Observations on the Conversion of St. Paul." Of this treatise Dr. Johnson wrote, "A treatise to which infidelity has never been able to fabricate a specious answer." Thus it is with every honest heart. Uninformed men may not believe that the Bible is the Word of God, but an honest investigation will compel all to admit the integrity of the Book.

At one time the Pharisees sent officers to arrest the Lord Jesus. These officers

stood and listened to Jesus as He spoke. Then they returned to the Pharisees without arresting Christ. When the Pharisees asked why they had not arrested Him, the officers said, "Never man spake like this man." In the same way we can say of the Bible, "Never book spake like this Book." No other book speaks with the same commanding tone. No other book reveals the matchless grace of God. No other book so fills the mind with peace and joy. No other book can feed the soul of man. A simple reading of the Bible will convince any honest heart that it is the Word of God.

CHRIST IS THE CENTRAL THEME

The Lord Jesus Christ is the key that unlocks the Holy Scriptures. He is the Alpha and Omega — the beginning and the end. The Old Testament prophets wrote of His sufferings and of His glory which was to follow (I Peter 1:11, Luke 24:27, 44).

He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley. He is the Bread of life, the Water of life. He is the Way and the Truth and the Life. He is the Light of the world. He is the bright and morning Star. He is the Sun of

righteousness. He is the Babe of Bethlehem, the Boy of Nazareth, the Man of Galilee, the Christ of Calvary. He is our great High Priest. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the Son of Abraham, the Son of David, the Son of Man, and the Son of God.

Christ is the center and hub of the wheel of Scripture. Every great truth and doctrine of the Bible revolves around Him.

If we know all of the external facts of the Bible but fail to find and know Him, we have failed to find Life. For in Him is Life. The Bible gives us life only as we find Him of whom the Bible speaks.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE INTERPRETER

The Holy Spirit is the Teacher and Interpreter of the Holy Scriptures. The great work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ. He takes the things of Christ and shows them to us.

Books that are written by men can be understood and comprehended with the human intellect. The deep truths of the Bible cannot be comprehended apart from an understanding given by the Holy Spirit. "The natural man

receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things that God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (I Cor. 2:9, 10). As natural men and women we do not have the Holy Spirit to teach us. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are born again of the Spirit. To be born of the Spirit we must recognize that we are lost, undone sinners and that we need a Saviour. We are born again when we, by faith, receive the Lord Jesus into our hearts, for the Bible says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12, 13). (If you want to understand more perfectly God's way of salvation, please write to the address in the back of this booklet and request a copy of "The Living God.")

THE BIBLE - OUR FOUNDATION

We sing, "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word." No structure can be stronger than the foundation upon which it is built. It does not matter how magnificent the superstructure may be, when the foundation gives way the building falls with it. David says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Everything that we know and believe about Christ, the living Word, depends on what the Bible, the written Word of God, tells us. We believe in the virgin birth of Christ, the atoning death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, the second coming of Christ, all because the Bible tells us of these things. If the Bible is not true we have no way of knowing what we believe about Christ is true. This leads us to our fifth basic consideration concerning the Word of God.

Satan knows that he can destroy the Christian faith if he can destroy the foundation upon which it is built. For this reason he makes his first attack on the Word of God. He whispers now as he did in Eden, "Hath God said?" Satan attacks the Word of God in four principal ways: (1) by discrediting it;

(2) by adding to it; (3) by taking from it; (4) and by perverting it.

There are many pseudo-scientists and perhaps some true scientists who seek to discredit the Word of God. There is no conflict between science and the Scriptures because God is the Author of both. There are conflicts between the theories of science and the theories of the Scripture. For example, for many years theologians believed that the earth was flat. Since the Bible does not teach this, it was a false assumption on the part of theologians. Scientists of today have many theories that conflict with the Bible, but in a few years they will have changed these theories for new ones.

I paused last eve beside the blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring, the vesper's chime,
And looking in I saw upon the floor
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.
"How many anvils have you had?" said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," he answered. Then with twinkling eye:
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."
And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word
For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon,
But though the noise of falling blows was heard
The anvil is unchanged; the hammers gone.

---John Clifford, D. D.

Satan destroys the meaning of the Word by adding to it human tradition and interpretations. Jesus said to the Jews of His day, "Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your traditions" (Matt. 15:6). The Catholic church is the great example of this. They teach that the authority of the Church is above the authority of the Bible. This basic error leads to all of the other false doctrines in their system. The Mormons also add to the Word of God by claiming that the Book of Mormon is inspired as well as the Bible.

The modernists take from the Word of God because they say it is not an infallible book. They tell us that part of the Bible is inspired and part of it is not. If we accept this view, how can we tell which portion is inspired and which is not? The authority of the Bible is lost for all who follow this teaching. When we hold this view, we sit in judgment on the Word of God rather than letting the Word judge us (John 12:48). The modernist is Satan's fifth column in the Church. Of all four enemies he is the most dangerous because he poses as an angel of light when in reality he is a minister of Satan (II Cor. 11: 13-15).

The number of cults is legion. They claim to believe that the Bible is the Word of God but they pervert its message. The teachings of these cults all date back to the false teachings in the days of the Apostle. Satan simply introduces them in new clothing. When there are so many cults and religions all claiming to teach the right way, how can we know what is right and what is wrong? The answer is simple: "To the law and to the testimony: If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8: 20). We may argue as to whether or not a wall is crooked or straight. One man's opinion is just as worthless as the man's next to him; but, if we put a level or a plumb line to the wall, we can soon know whether or not it is crooked or straight. In the same way it is worthless for us to argue as to whether some doctrine is right or wrong. But, when we test it by the Word of God, we can know if it is right or wrong.

THE PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE

In view of the fact that the Bible has been translated and copied many times, the question is often raised as to how we can be sure

the books of our Bible of today are the same books which were written by the Old and New Testament writers. It is quite easy to prove that our Bible is the same as the Church has had through the centuries. We can compare our Bible of today with the printed Bibles of the sixteenth century and it is easy to show that they correspond. From here we can go back to the English and Latin versions until we reach the great manuscripts of the fourth century which are now in existence in various museums. From these we can go back and compare the use of Scripture in the writings of the Fathers in the third century, and from these work back to the second century where versions in several languages are found. From this point it is but a short step to the time of the apostles and the actual composition of the New Testament. There is no reasonable doubt that we possess today what has always been regarded as the Scriptures of the Christian Church.

The proof as to the Old Testament can be shown along similar lines. Our Old Testament is identical with the Bible of the Jews at the present time (except for the order of the books). The fact that the Jews have always used the same Bible as they do today is

a proof that the Christian church has not been mistaken in including the Old Testament in its Bible. The Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek about two centuries before Christ, and the translation is essentially the same as the Hebrew text from which we get our Old Testament.

THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION

The Bible is God's message to men. Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. It is evident that the Bible is the Word of God because it deals with things eternal, infinite and otherwise unknown, as freely as other books deal with things temporal, finite and known.

There are some five theories concerning the inspiration of the Bible. The naturalistic theory teaches that the Bible is a human product void of any supernatural element. The partial theory teaches that part of the Bible is inspired and part of it is not. The gracious theory teaches that the Bible was inspired in the same way as are writers of today. The writings of Paul are compared to the writings of Calvin and Luther. The dynamic theory teaches that God inspired the thoughts but not

the words. The dictation theory teaches that the Bible was written just like a businessman would dictate a letter to his secretary. If this view were correct there would be no difference in the writings of Paul, Moses or David.

"The true doctrine of inspiration contends that God so directed the human authors that, without destroying their own individuality, literary style, or personal interest, His complete and connected thought toward man is recorded" (Dr. L. S. Shafer).

The following Scriptures teach that the very words and not merely the concepts are inspired of God: Exodus 34:27, 35:1, II Sam. 23:2, Psalms 45:1, Proverbs 30:6, and Jeremiah 1:7.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH THE BIBLE?

We are to believe it; we are to obey it. We are to take it in; we are to give it out. There are five basic ways through which we can take the Bible into our own hearts:

1. By hearing it.
2. By reading it.
3. By studying it.

4. By memorizing it.
5. By meditating on it.

We can hear it from preachers in the pulpit, over the radio. We can attend Bible classes where the Word is taught.

We can read the Bible, and we should read the Bible every day. It is a good practice to read the entire Bible through at least once each year. When we read the Bible, we should seek out a quiet place where God can speak to our hearts through His Word.

In studying the Bible, the Bereans of old give us an excellent example of how to accomplish this effectively: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). There are many lessons we can learn from this one text. (1) We are to study the Scriptures. They "searched the scriptures." We are not to study <u>about</u> the Bible. We are to study the Bible. Many of our ministers today spend several years studying about the Bible, but they never study the Bible itself. Hence they have no message. (2) We are to search the Scriptures. If we are to know the deep things of God, we must dig for them as hid treasure.

(3) We are to study daily. They "searched the scriptures daily." Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Just as we need physical food daily, so also we need spiritual food daily. (4) We are to study to find out what the Bible actually teaches. They "searched the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so."

As we study the Scriptures we must be careful to divide them rightly (II Timothy 2: 15). If the Scriptures are not rightly divided we shall have a hodgepodge of hopeless confusion. We must distinguish between the Jew, the Gentile and the Church. We must distinguish between law and grace; between salvation and rewards; between the two comings of Christ; between the two resurrections. A study of the seven dispensations will prove to be the key that unlocks the prophetic Scriptures for us. On the one hand we must be careful to divide the Word of God rightly, and on the other hand we must be careful not to divide it wrongly. A sane dispensational study of the Scriptures is most helpful, but when this interpretation is pushed to the extreme it is used as a trick of Satan to rob us of much that is precious in the Word of God.

There is a right way and a wrong way to

study the Bible. The right way is to come to the Bible with an honest heart and open mind to receive the message that God has for us. The wrong way is to come to the Bible with preconceived notions of our own and to seek to confirm what we believe by certain proof texts that we can pick out here and there. Many Christians study their Bibles with colored glasses on. They have Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, or some other kind of denominational glasses, and every thing that they read in the Bible is colored by their glasses. It does not matter what we think. It does not matter what our church or denomination believes. All that matters is, "What saith the Scriptures?"

We are to memorize the Bible. We are to hide it in our hearts. A number of fine organizations have good methods of memorizing the Bible. I suggest that you write to the Navigators in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for their method. You can devise a method of your own. As you read your Bible, you will find verses that you would like to use in witnessing to others. Memorizing is not hard if you do it the right way. Print the verse you like on one side of a card. Write the Scripture reference on the other side of the card. As you

read and study your Bible you will accumulate a number of these cards. If your time is limited, carry the cards with you and simply read them over and over again. You will be surprised how quickly you will learn the verses. You must constantly review or you will forget it.

The most important way of assimilating the Bible is by meditating on it. We are to meditate on the Word of God both day and night. If we do this, God promises that we shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth fruit in season. The Bible is our spiritual food. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." In eating physical food, the important thing is not how much food we eat, but how much we assimilate. If we are to digest our food properly, it must be well chewed and thoroughly mixed with saliva. The same is true of spiritual food. It must be well chewed if we are to assimilate it. Many Christians have the evil habit of hurriedly reading a portion of the Word of God each day as a legalistic duty. Their mind is not on what they read and hence they get nothing from what they read. Either physical or spiritual food that is taken in with-

out being assimilated does more harm than good.

If we are to be blessed in reading the Bible, we must believe that it is indeed the very Word of God. No blessing is received from this Book when it is studied in a cold, intellectual manner. The Bible speaks primarily to the heart and not to the head only. It is true that the sinner can be saved as he reads the Bible with an honest, open heart. As he reads, he will be convinced that the Bible is the Word of God. He will find that Jesus Christ is the only sufficient Saviour for men. But the Bible is primarily a Book for the people of God. Only the Spirit-taught believer can comprehend the deep things of God (I Corinthians 2:14). God does not teach His children merely that they might have much knowledge. It is only as we obey and practice what we read that the Holy Spirit is able to lead us into the deeper mysteries of God. Since the Bible is the Word of God, it is as infinite as God Himself. Its riches are unsearchable. Even after a life-time of Bible study we have just touched the hem of the garment. The more we study this blessed Book the more we realize how little we know and understand its real message.

METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY

Martin Luther said that he studied his Bible like he gathered apples. First he shook the whole tree and got all that he could in that way. Then he shook the large limbs and got all that he could. Then he shook the individual branches and finally he looked on every twig and under every leaf. We must first study the Bible as a whole, then we are to study it Book by Book, then chapter by chapter, then verse by verse and finally word by word.

The first method of Bible study is synthesis or survey. This method was popularized by Dr. James M. Gray, a former president of Moody Bible Institute. This is the method of the telescope, of seeing the Bible as a whole. Dr. Gray gives the following rules. (1) Begin where God began with the Book of Genesis. (2) Read the Book (do not study it in the usual sense). (3) Read the Book continuously. (That is, at a single sitting without noticing chapters or verses). (4). Read it repeatedly. (5) Read it independently, or without commentaries. (6) Read it prayerfully.

The second principal method of Bible study is analysis. This is the method of the microscope. The details of the Bible are

studied. In synthesis the Bible is examined as a whole; in analysis it is taken apart.

A third method of Bible study is topical. Instead of studying the Bible chapter by chapter, it is studied by subjects or doctrines, such as justification, sanctification, angels, assurance, security, judgment, resurrection or sin.

A fourth and very interesting method of Bible study is typical. This method takes us beneath the surface into rich mines of hidden truth. For example, when studying about Joseph, we see Jesus. When studying the experiences of the children of Israel as they came from Egypt into Caanan, we see a beautiful picture of the Christian life. When studying about the Tabernacle and the priesthood, we find the details are most uninteresting until we look beneath the surface and find that every part of the Tabernacle speaks to us of Christ.

Chapter summary is a fifth method of Bible study. Many Bible schools have a definite plan that is used in studying each chapter of the Bible, but for the beginning Bible student we suggest that each chapter of any particular book in the Bible be summarized in one simple heading. For example: The

third chapter of John is the "New Birth." The thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians is "Love," and the fifteenth chapter of that same book is "Resurrection." Or Ezekiel thirty-seven is "Dry Bones." This will require much study on our part, but will bring abundant blessing. When we are thus taught by the Holy Spirit, the Bible begins to live.

BIBLICAL HELPS

Perhaps many who read this little booklet will bewail the fact that they do not have other books to help them understand the Bible, but even this can be a blessing in disguise. The most commonly mentioned Biblical helps are: (1) a Bible dictionary, (2) a good concordance, (3) commentaries, and (4) modern translations.

If you do not have a Bible dictionary, any standard dictionary will give you the meaning of most words that you need to understand. It will be a fine thing for you to have a good concordance such as Young's, Strong's, but if you do not have such a book, you can make a practical concordance all of your own. Get a good note book and draw columns on each page. As you study your Bible you will run

across subjects that interest you. Put a subject at the head of each column and as you find verses on that subject list the reference in the proper column. This will take time, but in the long run you greatly benefit from it. Some commentaries are very helpful. Most of them are not worth the paper they are written on! Halley's Pocket Bible Handbook is a good tool for any student. Translations are helpful, but do not be distressed if you are not able to get them.

INTERPRETATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

Much is made of interpretating the Scriptures. It is one of Satan's tricks to make people believe that the Bible was written in such deep, profound, mystical language that the ordinary person cannot understand it. The Catholic church misinterprets "No prophecy is of any private interpretation" (II Peter 1:20). It makes this to mean that the individual Christian does not have a right to interpret the Bible, but that it must be interpretated by the Church. This verse means that we are not to interpret any Scripture by itself but in the light of other Scriptures. Modernists tell

us that the Bible is an oriental book written in highly symbolical language and that we are not to take it in a literal sense.

The student's understanding of the Scriptures depends upon the method of interpretation that he uses. There are two principal schools of interpretation: the allegorical and the literal. Angus-Green defines an allegory as "Any statement of supposed facts which admits of a literal interpretation, and yet requires or justly admits a moral or figurative one, is called an Allegory."

Bernard Ramm defines the literal method of interpretation as "that method that gives to each word the same exact basic meaning that it would have in the normal, ordinary, customary usage, whether employed in writing, speaking or thinking."

There are allegories in the Scriptures, and there are passages which are to be taken in the literal sense. Our problem is to determine what we are to take literally and what we are to take spiritually. John Calvin helps us with these words, "let us know then, that the true meaning of Scripture is the normal and obvious meaning, and let us embrace and abide by it resolutely." David L. Cooper gives this splendid advice: "When the plain sense

of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomated and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise."

The Bible is God's revelation to man. It was written for men to read and understand. God says what He means and means what He says. It is true that there are parts of the Bible that are of difficult interpretation. I do not suppose that there is a sane man living who claims that he understands every portion of the Word of God.

SOME RULES OF BIBLE STUDY

The following rules have been formulated by able Bible scholars. Dr. M. R. Dehaan gives these rules:

(1) The Rule of First Mention simply stated is: "The first time a word, a phrase an object or incident is mentioned in the Scripture, it gives the key to its meaning anywhere else in the Bible wherever it may occur."

(2) The Rule of Triple Approach means

that all Scripture has three approaches or meanings: (a) All Scripture has one, and only one, primary interpretation; (b) All Scripture has many practical applications; (c) Many Scriptures have, in addition, a a prophetic revelation.

(3) The Rule of Cumulative Revelation is simply this. The full truth of God's Word on any subject must not be gathered from an isolated passage, but from the cumulative revelation of all the Scriptures which bear on this one same truth.

(4) The Rule of Common Sense. Rid yourself of the idea that the Bible is a dark and difficult book. God wrote it to be understood by simple folks just like you and me. Use common sense and read it like you would any other book, magazine or newspaper. Surely there are many figures and metaphors in the Bible, but so are there in all literature. Take it all literally except where your common sense tells you it is to be taken figuratively or symbolically.

Dr. R. A. Torrey gives the following rule:

(1) Get absolutely right with God by the absolute surrender of your will to God.

(2) Be determined to find out just what God intended to teach and not what you wish Him to teach.

(3) Note the exact force of each word used.

(4) Interpret individual verses with a regard to the context. (Context means the text both before and after the verse that have a bearing on that verse.) e.)

(5) Interpret the words used in a verse according to Bible usage.

(6) Interpret individual passages in the light of parallel or related passages.

(7) Interpret obscure passages in the light of passages that are perfectly plain.

(8) The Holy Spirit is the best Interpreter of the Bible. The Holy Spirit makes the Bible live and glow. It is not the one who knows the most, but the one who loves who wins the most.

Dr. James M. Gray gives the law of double reference as "That pecularity of the writings by the Holy Spirit, by which a passage applying primarily to a person or event near at hand, is used by Him at a later time as applying to the Person of Christ or the affairs of His kingdom."

OBEDIENCE

God gave us His Word not merely that we might know it, but that we might obey it. Our obedience is to be an obedience of love. The greatest thing in life is knowing and doing the will of God. God's will is revealed in His Word. His will and His word are in perfect harmony. Jesus said, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). He also said, "If we know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17). Paul, the champion of grace, stresses the importance of obedience. He said, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9). "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own self" (James 1:22). "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (I John 2:17). "Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed" (Psalm 37:3). Faith and obedience go hand in hand throughout the Word of God. We are to believe the Word; we are to obey the Word.

"Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey."

This is not teaching salvation by works! We are saved by grace through faith unto good works. (Ephesians 2:8-10). We are to work out that which God works within. (Philippians 2:12).

One of the ways that we can obey the Word is by giving it out. In the Holy Land there are two seas. They are both fed by the river Jordan. The sea of Galilee is one of the most beautiful spots on the earth. Much of our Lord's ministry centered around it. There are a number of thriving communities on its shore. The Dead Sea is just a few miles south of the Sea of Galilee. It is all that its name implies. It is dead. There are no fish in it. There are no communities on its shores. How can these two seas be so different when the same river feeds both of them? The difference is this: Jordan flows into and out of Galilee thus keeping it fresh and sweet. Jordan flows into the Dead Sea, but there is no outlet from it. Hence, it is dead.

As Christians we shall be like one of these seas. If we only take in the Word of God we will be dead like the Dead Sea. But if we, like Galilee, both take in and give out,

we shall be fresh and vibrant. All of us cannot give out the Word of God in the same way. We must find God's appointed channel for us and then use it. Not all of us are called to preach in the strict sense of that word. We cannot all be pastors of churches, traveling evangelists or radio preachers. We cannot all be foreign missionaries.

Every Christian should be a Bible teacher. The greatest way to learn the Bible is to teach it. All of us cannot be full-time Bible teachers. Perhaps most of us will not have large Bible classes. Each of us can teach in different ways. Some will teach their neighbors; some will teach their children. As God finds us to be faithful in small things, He will promote us to larger things.

Every Christian is to be a witness for Christ. Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The Christian is to witness by his life and by word of testimony. If his life is not consistent, men will mock his words. A witness is one who tells what he knows. We cannot be witnesses for Christ unless we know Him. We will not

witness for Christ unless we are endued with the power of the Holy Ghost. When we witness in the energy of the flesh, it is grievous and burdensome to us. It is a delight to witness in the Spirit. As we are faithful in witnessing to those around us, the sphere of our usefulness will be enlarged.

The printed page is one of the most effective means for giving out the Word of God. It is effective because many people who will not go to church or listen to a preacher will read a tract or booklet. It can be read over and over again until the message is comprehended. The Spirit of God uses the printed page to bring conviction and conversion. The fact that over one million people are learning to read for the first time each week makes it imperative that we give them good gospel literature. Since the demand for such literature is far greater than the present supply, we must be prayerfully led by the Spirit as we distribute literature. (For additional literature write to the address in the back of this booklet.)

REWARDS

Untold blessing and benefits come to the student of the Bible. It is one of the means

used in our salvation (Psalm 19:7, I Peter 1: 23). There can be no growth or spiritual development apart from it. It is the believer's light giving wisdom and guidance through this darkened world (Psalm 119:105). It cleanses from the defilement of sin (Psalm 119:9, 11, John 15:3, 17:17). It gives peace (Psalm 119: 165). It is the secret of success (Joshua 1:8). "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord: and in his law doth he meditate both day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the river of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:1-3).

The man who gives out the Word of God is also promised eternal rewards. Jesus said that the seed is the word of the kingdom. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:5, 6). These are great promises for the soul winner. If we sow in tears, we shall reap in joy. God promises us that if we will go out

sowing the seed which is His Word and His Gospel with a compassionate heart we shall without doubt come again with rejoicing bringing precious sheaves with us. "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever"

Hearken well, my friend, to the message of this little booklet. If you are not a Christian you can obtain a copy of "The Living God" booklet from the address in the back of this booklet that will tell you how you can become a Christian. Great is the blessing now, and great will be the eternal rewards of the person who walks in the light of the Word of the only true and living God.